

Amendments to the Claims:

1- 72. (canceled).

73. (previously presented): An identification document comprising:

a substrate;

a first graphic carried on or in the substrate, the first graphic representing a photographic image or artwork; and

electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises information stored therein,

the first graphic comprising steganographically encoding including a plural-bit first message that is machine-readable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of said first graphic, wherein the first message comprises at least a code, and

wherein the code once obtained unlocks the electronic circuitry or the information stored therein.

74. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

75. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license, passport and photo-identification card.

76. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the code comprises a decryption key.

77. (previously presented): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
machine-readable symbols carried on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises information stored therein,
the machine-readable symbols representing data that is machine-readable from optical scan information corresponding to at least a portion of the machine-readable symbols, and
wherein the data once obtained unlocks the electronic circuitry or the information stored therein.

78. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

79. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the substrate comprises multiple components.

80. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 79 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

81. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the machine-readable symbols are steganographically hidden in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

82. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license and photo-identification document.

83. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

84. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the data is utilized as at least one of an encryption key and a decryption key.

85. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the symbols represent human readable information.

86. (previously presented): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information carried on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,
wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is recognizable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information carried on or in the substrate, and
wherein at least a portion of the information once recognized unlocks the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

87. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

88. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the substrate comprises multiple components.

89. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 88 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

90. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is steganographically hidden in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

91. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license and photo-identification document.

92. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

93. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is utilized as at least one of an encryption key and a decryption key.

94. (new): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information carried on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,

wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is obtainable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information carried on or in the substrate, and

wherein at least a portion of the information is provided for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein, wherein the cooperation is to unlock the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

95. (new): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the at least a portion of the information - once processed - is for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

96. (new): The identification document of claim 95 wherein the at least a portion of the information is to be processed to yield a hash, the hash being for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

97. (new): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

98. (new): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the substrate comprises multiple components.

99. (new): The identification document of claim 97 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

100. (new): The identification document of claim 946 wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is steganographically hidden in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

101. (new): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information carried on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,
wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is obtainable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information carried on or in the substrate, and
wherein at least a portion of the information once obtained is to be utilized to unlock the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

102. (new): The identification document of claim 101 wherein the substrate comprises multiple components.

103. (new): The identification document of claim 101 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.